

Message Text

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FOR ANDREWS FROM SIMPSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

REF: STATE 161211

1. VISITING AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN (PARA 3 REFTEL). EMBASSY WAS AWARE IN ADVANCE OF JUNE 20-24 VISIT BY CENTER FOGH INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT STUDIES (COMS) GROUP OF 20 TO SOFIA, HOSTED BY STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS (SCSTP). P&C OFFICER KARCH ASSISTED IN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CIMS (O'MELIA) AND SCSTP (DESPOTOV), WITH INFORMATION TO SCSTP, AND IN EMBASSY VISIT.

ON JUNE 21 MAGEE, AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, AND SIMPSON, AS CHIEF OF POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SECTION, BRIEFED THE ENTIRE GROUP AT THE EMBASSY ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND BULGARIA. JUNE 23 SAME TWO ATTENDED RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE SCSTP AT SOFIA HOTEL FOR CIMS GROUP. WE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT CIMS WORKSHOP AND MEETING WITH A WIDE RANGE OF BULGARIAN OFFICIALS WERE VERY USEFUL. CIMS-SCSTP RELATIONS GO BACK TO 1968 WHEN DISCUSSIONS LED TO AGREEMENT ON BILATERAL COOPERATION TO IMPROVE EXISTING
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SYSTEMS OF MANAGEMENT THROUGH EXCHANGE OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND KNOW-HOW PRIMARILY INVOLVING DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGERS. SINCE THEN THERE HAVE BEEN EXCHANGES OF VISITS--BULGARIANS TO US AND CIMS TO BULGARIA. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS IDEA OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS LIKE CIMS AND BULGARIA.

2. MEMORANDUM ON IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF BULGARIAN ECONOMY
APPROVED BY POLITBURO LAST SEPTEMBER (PARA 8 REFTEL).
RFE REPORT DATED NOVEMBER 11, 1977 ON THE POLITBURO MEMO
BEING POUCHED JULY 11.

3. VARNA CONFERENCE (PARA 10 REFTEL). EMBASSY HAD KNOW
OF SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BULGARIAN STUDIES.
P&C OFFICER KARCH HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SEVERAL US MEMBERS
OF BULGARIAN STUDIES GROUP (BSG) AND WITH HOST BULGARIAN
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GARTHOFF AND
KARCH (WITH WIFE AND DAUGHTER) ATTENDED PRE-OPENING DINNER
(JUNE 12) AND FORMAL OPENING JUNE 13. BOTH AMBASSADOR AND
KARCH HAD CONTACT WITH US AND BULGARIAN PARTICIPANTS AT
VARNA AND LATER IN SOFIA. VOA'S VIENNA CORRESPONDENT
PENSTEIN COVERED JUNE 12 AND 13 ACTIVITIES AND FILED REPORTS.
ON JUNE 23 US PROFESSORS JAMES CLARKE (PRESIDENT OF BSG)
AND IRWIN SANDERS (HONORARY PRESIDENT) RECEIVED BULGARIAN
AWARDS. THIRD CONFERENCE IN DISCUSSION STAGE AND SHOULD
BE FIRMED UP AT COLUMBUS, OHIO, AT AAASS MEETING IN OCTOBER.
CONFERENCE LIKELY TO BE IN 1981 AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY (PROF.
SANDERS). EMBASSY SUPPORTS THIS SCHOLARLY LINK, FAVORS
MORE FREQUENT CONFERENCES (TWO OR THREE YEARS RATHER THAN
THE FIVE-YEAR INTERVAL BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND), RECOMMENDS
GREATER FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND SUGGESTS MORE OF PROGRAM BE
DEVOTED TO CONTEMPORARY TOPICS. SEE SOFIA (USINFO) 1231,
JUNE 26, INFO COPY TO DEPT, FOR MORE INFORMATION.
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GARTHOFF

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